

College Night Ribbon Hanging

Page 4



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Page 3



The Alabamian

Vol. 92, No. 8

Friday, January 26, 2018

Montevallo divided over NDO

By JAMIE HAAS and GEORDIE KENNEDY

On Thursday, Jan. 11, conversation regarding the City of Montevallo's proposed Non-Discrimination Ordinance continued at Parnell Memorial Library.

The Non-Discrimination Ordinance (NDO) has been a topic of conversation among the City Council since its proposal approximately two years ago. One notable opportunity for public discourse regarding the legislation was the Montevallo Inclusivity Forum in September 2017. The forum was organized in such a way that Montevallo residents were able to pose both questions and concerns relating to the ordinance.

The NDO seeks to amend Chapter 16 of the Montevallo Municipal Code, barring the act of discrimination against the LGBTQ community from occurring with no legal recourse. More specifically, the right to work, secure housing and participation in the free market would be protected. As it stands now, there is no federal or Alabama state law preventing such discrimination against LGBTQ individuals.

The Public Information Forum met with a similar goal to its predecessors: to promote community discussion surrounding the NDO. This particular panel maintained an overarching opposition to the ordinance. The panel, assembled on the library auditorium stage consisted of four guest speakers with similar viewpoints opposing the ordinance and others of its kind.

The assembled panelists came from varying angles of opposition. Matt Sharp, Senior Council for Alliance Defending Freedom, cited the impact of other similar ordinances in other states. Adam



The four panelists (pictured above) sought to address the issues of protecting conscience and government intervention.

Photo by Jamie Haas

MacLeod, professor of law at Faulkner University, examined the legal underpinnings of the issue. A. Eric Johnston, an attorney at the Southern Law Institute took a stance against the overarching issue of LGBTQ rights. Finally Pastor Harry Reeder III, of Briarwood Presbyterian Church, took a religious view of the implementation of the ordinance.

An ongoing theme noted by the panelists was the potential effects of the proposed ordinance on local business owners and as stated by MacLeod, "people of conscience." "The folks who are being prosecuted after these ordinances are not, as we took pains to emphasize, discriminating because of sexual orientation," said MacLeod, "In every case it's a question of what they can do in conscience. That is, they believe as a matter of conscience they cannot tell a

falsehood using business resources about what marriage is." Sharp and Johnston both took the stance that, although the ordinance claims to be non-discriminatory, it would actually be discriminating against those whose beliefs don't align with the ordinance's policies.

Many attendees of the forum stood in stark opposition to those onstage. The group of event goers, in large part consisting of students and University professors, wore stickers bearing the words "Equality is not a Threat" to silently communicate their disapproval of the panelists' views.

One such attendee, Greg Reece from the Montevallo Acceptance Project remains hopeful regarding the ordinance's future. "I'm very optimistic that the ordinance will be enacted," said Reece. The Acceptance Project first proposed

the ordinance to the City Council nearly two years ago. "A lot of worries were expressed tonight in regards to threats to religious freedoms," says Reece, "the ordinance offers no such threats."

Literature circulated at the event echoed Reece's statement pertaining to the NDO's relationship with religious institutions. If the ordinance were to be passed, religious institutions would be free to limit membership, leadership and staffing based on religious standards. Additionally, they would not be required to officiate same-sex marriages.

Talks surrounding the ordinance are expected to continue into the near future. In the meantime, citizens are encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings regarding going forward.

NEWS in BRIEF

By VANDY MYERS

A large step was made in the cloning industry on Jan. 24 with the birth of two Macaques, female baby monkeys named Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua. These genetically identical monkeys, created by a group at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shanghai and lead by Muming Poo, prove that mammalian cloning is possible with today's technology. In order to create the monkeys, the Chinese scientists took DNA from 127 eggs and replaced it with DNA from the monkey fetus which Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua were cloned from. Out of these trials, only the two monkeys were viable. Researchers are still waiting on additional pregnancies and experiments to conclude all that they can from the data. Possible benefits from the research include animal testing on genetically identical monkeys.

On Jan. 24, 2018, SpaceX tested the Falcon Heavy rocket, a massive vehicle scheduled for its first flight in a few weeks. According to The Verge, CEO of SpaceX, Elon Musk, has approved the final test and set a launch date for the rocket. Some parts of the rocket will be reusable after its maiden flight, including the three cores which provide the liftoff power. It will serve to carry massive amount of cargo, approximately 140,000 pounds, into space.

This January will be host to a total lunar eclipse on the morning of Jan. 31, according to Sky and Telescopes. NASA and Griffith Observatory will offer live feeds of the event for those unable to see the eclipse from their geographic location. In Alabama, the moon will set while entering the umbra, when the red "sunset-sunrise" light leaks around the earth and tinges the moon. The moon will be low in the sky during the eclipse.

North Korea, South Korea solidify plan to march together at Olympics

By ANDY SHARP and ADAM SATARIANO

North and South Korea solidified a plan to march together at next month's Winter Olympics and agreed to compete with a joint women's hockey team in a rare show of unity.

With the games to be held in South Korea, the agreement signed Saturday offers a moment of reconciliation during mounting tensions on the Korean peninsula involving Kim Jong Un's nuclear and missile programs. North and South Korea will enter the opening ceremony in Pyeongchang under a single flag.

"I'm sure it will be a very emotional moment, not just for all Koreans, but also for the entire world," said Thomas Bach, the president of the International Olympic Committee. The agreement was in the "true Olympic

spirit of respect and friendship," he said.

The two countries will field a unified women's hockey team, the first time the two sides will compete as one team. North Korea will send 22 athletes, with 24 coaches and officials, Olympic officials said.

Bach said Olympic organizers have been working since 2014 to reach an agreement for joint participation at the South Korea games. The IOC meeting addressed the number of athletes and officials from North Korea who would attend, as well as make broader decisions on the format of their participation and matters related to protocol such as the flag, anthem, ceremonies and uniforms.

"This was not an easy journey,"

Bach said at a news conference after the meeting at Olympics headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Bach said the agreement seemed "impossible only a few weeks ago," and praised the two governments for coming together. He said he hoped the Olympics would "open the world for a brighter future on the Korean peninsula."

The two Koreas announced Wednesday their plan to march jointly under one flag when the games start Feb. 9 in the South Korean ski resort of Pyeongchang. In addition to the hockey team, the two countries will conduct some activities in North Korea, including a joint cultural event at Mount Geumgang and training for skiers from both countries at the Masikryong ski resort on the

east coast.

It will be the first time the two Koreas have marched together during the opening ceremony of an international sporting event since 2007, and the ninth time overall, according to South Korea. The two Koreas haven't competed under a single banner since 1991. While the detente was praised by officials at the United Nations and breaks months of brinkmanship over Kim's nuclear program, tensions remain. On Wednesday, just as the two countries were announcing the Olympics agreement, a North Korean state-run newspaper also called on South Korea to stop its military drills with the U.S.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Viewpoints.....2

Ribbon Hanging...4

On Campus.....3

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Opinion: Equality Threatens Oppression

By DONOVAN CLECKLEY



Stickers like the one above were worn in silent protest to the recent public information forum.

Photo by Alabamian Staff

In high school, I remember losing the will to continue living, wishing for death, not because I knew that I liked men, but because I knew how I would be treated for liking them. Every day in the closet felt void of color. I make these personal statements about my sexuality to demonstrate, perhaps vividly, a situation that either strengthens or kills LGBT people.

Montevallo’s recent panel on the “threat” posed by the Non-Discrimination Ordinance remains on my mind mostly because it seemed as if the speakers could not see from the perspectives of LGBT people, especially from the perspectives of LGBT children contemplating suicide around the country and around the world. While the panelists seemed to view LGBT people as sex acts, not as human beings, I assert that society must recognize

the humanity of LGBT people. Regardless of religious, sexual or gender identity, every human being deserves to be treated as a human being. Practicing equality means that an individual or entity provides services equally to all other individuals with no arbitrary exceptions.

The panelists’ remarks implied that the only acceptable and permissible sexuality is heterosexuality, meaning that one must be heterosexual or one must not be. As humans, however, we use sexuality to communicate and to bond with one another, expressing sexuality differently — not always in adherence to male-female relationships.

Sexuality can be beautiful, free and liberating if we remove it from the confines of male dominance and female submission. The speakers, however, seemed to be in favor of the rigid tradition

of heterosexuality in which men possess women. Within such a view no beautiful, free or liberating sexuality can exist. In this way, human sexuality twists into an act a person does because of some absurd biological or religious destiny. Such a mindset accounts for the failure to fully outlaw marital rape across the United States of America until 1993. Contrary to the idea of enforced and regulated heterosexuality, I assert that sexuality and love must be free from all repression, for the only beautiful love is free love.

One of the speakers shared concerns, undoubtedly voiced by other individuals like him, that allowing people to use “privacy facilities” (e.g., locker rooms and restrooms) corresponding to the individuals’ gender identities would infringe on the rights of other presumably cisgender heterosexual individuals using those

facilities. Do women not already use women’s restrooms? Do men not already use men’s restrooms? It seems sensible to allow a woman to use women’s facilities. It likewise seems sensible to allow a man to use men’s facilities. Yet, against basic reasoning, the speaker argued that transgender men (i.e., men) should use women’s facilities and that transgender women (i.e., women) should use men’s facilities.

The concepts of “male” and “female” indeed rely on biological sex differences, but chromosomes, genitalia, and hormones do not control the concepts of “man” and “woman” in human perception. The perceiver considers the representation of another person’s gendered self. A transgender man looks like a man. He goes around being a man. He is a man. A transgender woman looks like a woman. She goes around being a woman. She is a woman. While biological sex differences can impact how an individual performs gender, how one performs gender is not biologically predetermined. Rather, one’s expression of the gendered self is a constant project. Typically, people understand the concepts of “man” and “woman” only in terms of visible appearances. As such, individuals continuously perform and express gender on a spectrum.

Tradition and prejudice weigh heavily upon LGBT lives. I understand this weight since it almost crushed me. LGBT people

fear conversion therapy. They fear being thrown out of their homes for their identities. They fear rejection from their families, churches and communities. They fear that “justice” will overlook crimes committed against them. I want LGBT people to know that we must fight for the right to visibly exist. Although liberating, visibility hurts, but we must not retreat. We must remain vigilant.

If the status quo considers us a threat, then I think we should accept the challenge. We threaten existing assumptions about proper human sexuality. We threaten existing assumptions about proper gender performance. We threaten the ridiculous assumptions of heteronormativity and cisnormativity forcefully imposed upon all human bodies.

Oppressed people who reject oppression pose the ultimate threat to the powerful. Once we challenge all forms of supremacy, we will move closer to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness extended to all people. Equal treatment should mean equal treatment, regardless of one’s various identities, including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability and nationality. After breaking the cage of tradition and prejudice, we will fly free if we so please, living our own truths while others choose to live their gay truths or their straight lies.

Review: A bold choice for an old franchise

By REANNA PIPES



A porg from “Star Wars: The Last Jedi”

Photo credit: Lucasfilm Ltd.

The Star Wars franchise has been causing quite an uproar in the media ever since Disney announced the newest trilogy. After watching “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” fans have been waiting two years to see what fate held for some of their new favorite characters Resistance pilot, Poe Dameron, and the ex-Stormtrooper, FN-2187, now dubbed Finn. Fans of the films lined up on Dec. 14 to finally see what was awaiting

Rey after she found Luke Skywalker, and how Kylo Ren was dealing with his embarrassing defeat on the now demolished Star Killer base. “Star Wars: The Last Jedi” does just that, keeping viewers enthralled while playing with the thin line between the light and dark sides of the force.

It’s no surprise that fans of the series are split down the middle, some loving the movie wholeheartedly, while others claim it to

be the worst one yet. While that decision is made by the individual viewer, no one can deny that the movie has some interesting moments. Rian Johnson, who wrote and directed “Star Wars: The Last Jedi” delivers quite a few surprising scenes, from lots of sarcastic humor to an unexpected backstory between Luke Skywalker and Kylo Ren. Johnson introduced new characters, such as Rose Tico, who have quickly gained quite a supportive following.

The plot itself is quite refreshing, but what really grabs your attention throughout the two-and-a-half-hour-long movie is the audio. The original soundtrack was both composed and conducted by John Williams, who also composed the soundtrack for “Star Wars: The Force Awakens”. The instrumentals do an astonishing job at eliciting emotions where needed. An exhilarating tune plays to keep you on the edge of your seat during the final battle while upbeat dance music plays to lift one’s mood during a fun casino scene. Each song takes into account exactly what is happening in the scene and how the viewer

needs to feel while watching it.

However, the best use of sound in the movie was the lack of sound. Near the end of the movie, tensions are high as the audience are worried for the survival of all their heroes. In a moment of pure selflessness, a main character sacrifices themselves making a bold attack. In this riveting scene, all sound is cut out from the film for a full ten seconds emphasizing the intensity and gravity of the scene. This moment of silence is deafening and elicits chills every time I watch the movie and represents a smart move made by the production team.

“Star Wars: The Last Jedi” just goes to show that while script, cast and set design are all important when making a movie, but a phenomenal use of audio can make a good scene a great and memorable one. The end of the movie left viewers with questions, wondering how exactly the Resistance will move on from the events of the movie, and once again fans are left to wait another two years for the answer.

GOT AN
OPINION?

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IN OUR NEXT ISSUE...

College Night
2018

UM receives largest donation to date

Courtesy of UNIVERSITY RELATIONS



Stephens speaks at Founders' Day in 2013. Photo courtesy of University Relations

The University of Montevallo is pleased to announce a \$3.6 million gift bequeathed by Michael E. Stephens, namesake of the Stephens College of Business. This legacy gift, which is the largest gift received in UM's history, is designated toward construction of a new facility for the Stephens College of Business.

"Michael Stephens has made yet another transformative impact on the school that bears his name. Mike and I spent countless hours over the last decade discussing his dream of a new home for the Michael E. Stephens College of Business. Every time we met, Mike spoke at length about the Stephens College faculty and students – their happiness and well-being were always on his mind and in his heart. I am very pleased that

we will see Mike's vision of a new home for the Stephens College of Business realized," said Dean Stephen Craft.

The University will utilize diligence in the planning of the future facility. "We are deeply grateful for Mike and Allison Stephens' generous spirit and thoughtfulness, and look forward to honoring their gift through our service to Montevallo students. We will take time, as a campus community, to consider how a new building will best serve our College of Business students and the entire campus. We will be seeking input from the College of Business, the Board of Trustees, other campus constituents, and Mrs. Stephens in the coming weeks and months concerning this transformative gift," said Dr. John W. Stewart III, president of the

University of Montevallo. Stephens earned his bachelor's degree in business from the University of Montevallo in 1973 after intense rehabilitation from a severe diving accident. The rehabilitation process changed the focus of his life, having a profound effect on his personal, professional, civic and philanthropic activities. He went on to become executive director of Lakeshore Hospital, founder and CEO of ReLife and visionary for the Lakeshore Foundation. His work transformed the lives of numerous individuals with disabilities.

Montevallo awarded Stephens with an honorary doctorate in May 1995 and named the College of Business in his honor in 1997. His impact on the community was abundant. As an alumnus, Stephens maintained contact with the University of Montevallo serving in a variety of advisory capacities. "Mike's ongoing support has enabled the Stephens College to sustain prestigious senior-level accreditation through AACSB International, build and maintain a world-class business faculty, grow dynamic undergraduate programs with high-impact learning and employment outcomes, and develop our evening MBA program for working professionals. I could not be prouder to be Dean of the Michael E. Stephens College of Business and we are enormously grateful that Mike has honored us with this gift," said Craft.

Be prepared for flu season

Courtesy of HEALTH SERVICES

To avoid catching the flu:
Get a flu shot at your local pharmacy, doctor's office, or the UM flu clinic.
Get adequate rest and nutrition to keep your immune system working at its best.
Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer frequently.
Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze with either a tissue or your sleeve.
Avoid contact with people who are sick.

- Symptoms of the flu include:**
- Sudden onset of fever (100 °F or higher)
 - Chills
 - Sore muscles
 - Headache
 - Fatigue
 - Sore throat
 - Dry cough
 - Nasal congestion
 - Diarrhea and vomiting

- How to treat symptoms:**
- Get plenty of rest and adequate fluids.
 - Fever reduction– Take acetaminophen (eg: Tylenol) every 4-6 hours or ibuprofen (eg: Advil, Motrin) every 6-8 hours. These two medications may be alternated every four hours.
 - Congestion– Take a medication containing phenylephrine or pseudoephedrine (eg: Sudafed).
 - Cough– Take a medication containing dextromethorphan (eg: Robitussin or Mucinex DM).
 - Sore throat– Try throat lozenges or sprays that contain an anesthetic (eg: Chloraseptic).

COLLEGE NIGHT

Events

Sign Raising - Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m. Farmer

Volleyball - Jan. 27, 2 p.m. Myrick

Ultimate frisbee - Feb. 3, 2 p.m. intramural fields

Women's basketball - Feb. 4, 2 p.m. Myrick

Men's basketball - Feb. 10, 2 p.m. Myrick

Side shows - Feb. 7 7 p.m. Palmer

Side shows - Feb. 8 7 p.m. Palmer

Side shows - Feb. 9 7 p.m. Palmer

Side shows - Feb. 10 7 p.m. Palmer



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Every year, Purple and Gold side kick off College Night season with a dazzling display of College Night unity: the Ribbon Hanging. This event serves as a reminder that regardless of what side we play for and no matter who earns that coveted victory, we're all unified as UM students.



Photos by Katie Compton and courtesy of Gold Side